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Subject: Dept Press Briefing on Libya

The following is the text of Dept Spokesman's press briefing of Sept. 5:

The situation on Libya:

QTE: Q. [redacted]

We had a German plane fly out, back to Frankfurt, and the pilot apparently said there were 81 passengers aboard, mostly Americans, and they were refused permission to leave. What is the situation with these passengers?

A. Well, I think it's just about as you describe it. As I understand it, the plane and its crew were permitted to leave. The passengers were not. I don't know the figure, the total, nor do I know how many Americans are there, but there are some Americans among the group.

Q. Are we making any effort to look into this?

A. Yes, I would fully expect that we will.

END

RICHARDSO

Drafted by: AF/P:WCPowell:djw 9/5/69 | Tel. Ext. 20322 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF/P - W. Clinton Powell

Clearances:
AF/N - Mr. Suddarth; Mr. Wisner
S/PRS - Mr. Magruder

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